

What is claimed is:

1. A heat transfer system which comprises:
  - a supply tube having a proximal end and a distal end;
  - a capillary tube having a proximal end and a distal end, with said  
5 proximal end thereof connected in fluid communication with said distal  
end of said supply tube;
  - a tip member positioned to surround said distal end of said  
capillary tube forming a cryo-chamber therebetween;
  - a source of refrigerant fluid, connected in fluid communication  
10 with said proximal end of said supply tube;
  - a means for introducing the refrigerant fluid into said supply tube  
at a working pressure " $p_w$ ", for transfer of the refrigerant fluid through  
said supply tube and through said capillary tube to exit from said distal  
end of said capillary tube and into said cryo-chamber in a substantially  
15 liquid state, for transition of the refrigerant fluid into a gaseous state  
with a tip pressure " $p_t$ " and a tip temperature " $T_t$ ", for heat transfer  
through said tip member and into the gaseous fluid refrigerant in said  
cryo-chamber;
  - a temperature sensor for measuring the tip temperature " $T_t$ "; and  
20 a means connected to said temperature sensor and to said  
introducing means for controlling said working pressure " $p_w$ " according  
to the tip temperature " $T_t$ " to minimize the tip temperature " $T_t$ ."
2. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said refrigerant fluid is  
nitrous oxide ( $N_2O$ ).
- 25 3. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said working pressure  
" $p_w$ " is in a range between three hundred and fifty psia and five hundred psia.

4. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein a pressure regulator is in fluid communication with said source of said fluid refrigerant and said controlling means.

5. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said temperature sensor is mounted on an interior surface of said tip member.

6. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said temperature sensor is mounted on said distal end of said capillary tube.

7. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said tip pressure " $p_t$ " is less than one atmosphere.

10 8. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein the tip temperature, " $T_t$ ", is less than minus eighty-four degrees Centigrade ( $T_t < -84^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).

9. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said controlling means is a system controller which comprises: a signal receiver, a processor, and a pressure control algorithm.

10. A heat transfer system which comprises:  
a means for providing a liquid refrigerant at a first pressure;  
a means for reducing the pressure on said liquid refrigerant from  
said first pressure to a second pressure;  
5 a means for introducing said liquid refrigerant into a cryo-  
chamber at said second pressure for transition of said liquid refrigerant  
into a gaseous state in said cryo-chamber to cause heat to transfer  
from outside said cryo-chamber, into said cryo-chamber;  
a means for sensing a temperature in said cryo-chamber; and  
10 a means connected to said sensing means and to said  
introducing means for controlling said first pressure according to the  
temperature in said cryo-chamber to minimize the temperature in said  
cryo-chamber.
11. A system as recited in claim 10 wherein said liquid refrigerant is  
15 nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O).
12. A system as recited in claim 10 wherein said reducing means  
comprises:  
a supply tube having a proximal end and a distal end; and  
a capillary tube having a proximal end and a distal end, with the  
20 proximal end thereof connected in fluid communication with the distal  
end of said supply tube.
13. A system as recited in claim 10 wherein said sensing means is a  
temperature sensor mounted in said cryo-chamber.
14. A system as recited in claim 12 wherein said sensing means is a  
25 temperature sensor mounted on said distal end of said capillary tube.

15. A system as recited in claim 10 wherein said means for controlling said first pressure comprises: a system controller, a processor, a pressure control algorithm, and a pressure regulator.

5           16. A method for transferring heat which comprises the steps of:  
              providing a liquid refrigerant at a first pressure;  
              reducing the pressure on said liquid refrigerant from said first  
              pressure to a second pressure;  
              introducing said liquid refrigerant into a cryo-chamber at said  
              second pressure for transition of said liquid refrigerant into a gaseous  
10           state in said cryo-chamber to cause a transfer of heat from outside said  
              cryo-chamber, through a tip, and into said cryo-chamber;  
              sensing a tip temperature, " $T_t$ ";  
              electronically communicating said tip temperature " $T_t$ " to a  
              system controller; and  
15           controlling said first pressure according to said tip temperature  
              " $T_t$ " to minimize said tip temperature, " $T_t$ ".

17. A method as recited in claim 16 wherein said liquid refrigerant is nitrous oxide ( $N_2O$ ).

20           18. A method as recited in claim 16 wherein said first pressure is a  
              working pressure " $p_w$ " in a range between three hundred and fifty psia and five  
              hundred psia, and said second pressure is a tip pressure " $p_t$ " of less than one  
              atmosphere.

19. A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the tip temperature " $T_t$ " is less than minus eighty-four degrees Centigrade ( $T_t < -84^\circ C$ ).

20. A method as recited in claim 16 wherein said controlling the first pressure step comprises the steps of:

receiving a tip temperature " $T_t$ " from a temperature sensor;

processing a control algorithm;

5 calculating an adjustment to said first pressure; and

controlling said first pressure.